

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
May 19 & 20, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on May 19, 2004 in Room 1D2 of the Transportation Building in Olympia, Washington.

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Chair Davis, Ed Barnes, Elmira Forner, A. Michèle Maher, Dan O'Neal and Dale Stedman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Maher, and seconded by Commissioner Barnes to approve the meeting minutes for March 17, 2004. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Jennifer Ziegler, Administrator, briefed the Commission regarding the preparation of upcoming Commission performance measures and budget request.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner O'Neal reported that he attended a bi-monthly freight mobility roundtable commerce corridor meeting.

Commissioner Forner reported that she toured a floating submerged tunnel while out of the country. She attended a Wenatchee Valley Transportation Committee meeting.

Commissioner Maher reported that she took part in the Federal Highway Administration's External Leadership Program. She also attended a QUADCO RTPO meeting and a Benton-Franklin-Council of Governments meeting.

Commissioner Barnes reported that he attended a Southwest Washington RTPO meeting. He commented that the Commission retreat was very beneficial.

Commissioner Stedman reported that he has continued to meet with Department staff learning about division functions. He stated that he met with the Federal Highway Administration. He also attended a Spokane Regional Transportation Council meeting.

Chair Davis commented that the Commission retreat exceeded his expectations. He briefly explained that he would be meeting with a representative of Seattle's International District regarding a parking garage proposal. He reported that he met with Senator Horn and Representative Murray. He also attended a TPAB meeting.

SEATTLE MONORAIL PROJECT GREEN LINE

Judy Giniger, Director, Public Transportation and Rail Division, provided the Commission with an update on the status of the Seattle Monorail Project. Commissioner Barnes requested that the Commission be notified of monorail funding requests.

The Commission discussed a variety of issues regarding the Seattle Monorail Project and asked staff to draft a resolution summarizing the Commission's concerns.

I-90 AND R8A UPDATE

Ms. Giniger provided an update on the project milestones, and what the next steps are in the process for approval of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA), Sound Transit and the parties to the 1976 Memorandum Agreement. The I-90 project is an element of Sound Transit's 1996 *Sound Move* plan. The project will add High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on the outer roadways to complete the HOV system between Seattle and Bellevue. The Commission will have the opportunity to approve the preferred alternative for the project following the approval of other parties to the agreement.

PALOUSE RIVER AND COULEE CITY RAILROAD UPDATE

Ms. Giniger briefed the Commission regarding the Department's intent to proceed with the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad (PCC) track. She distributed a report that summarized the research, investigation and policy analysis conducted to assess the feasibility of and continuing operations of the PCC line. Critical next action steps are the development of an acceptable operating lease, establishment of a business plan for operating the railroad and formation of a PCC advisory group to assist the Department in overseeing management of the PCC's assets and operations.

PUBLIC AND LEGISLATOR COMMENT PERIOD

Meta Heller, Lobbyist, Common Ground USA, shared her concerns regarding uninsured motorists in Washington State.

2005-07 BIENNIAL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, and Amy Arnis, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Programming, provided a briefing on the preliminary draft 2005-07 Budget. Ms. Hammond explained specifics of budget development, and outlined the timelines involved in the process.

Ms. Arnis briefed the Commission regarding funding sources, operating and capital per forma, and the Ten-Year Financial Plan.

HONORARY NAMING OF GALER AVENUE PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS

Lorena Eng, Region Administrator, Northwest Region, and Senator, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, presented Resolution No. 663, requesting that the Galer Street pedestrian bridge over SR 99 (Aurora Avenue) be named in honor of former State Senator for the 36th District, Ray Moore.

Senator Kohl-Welles expressed her support of the honorary naming the Galer Avenue Pedestrian Overpass the “Ray Moore Memorial Pedestrian Bridge” in appreciation for his dedication as a public servant. She thanked the Commission and the Department for its consideration of Resolution No. 663.

It was moved by Commissioner Barnes, and seconded by Commissioner Forner to approve Resolution No. 663, naming the Galer Street pedestrian bridge over SR 99 (Aurora Avenue) to Ray Moore Memorial Pedestrian Bridge after late Senator Ray Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION RECOGNITION OF JOHN SHADOFF

Charlie Howard, Director, Strategic Planning and Programming, presented Resolution No. 664 honoring John Shadoff for his many years of public service with the Department of Transportation. Mr. Shadoff, as manager of the Transportation Demand Management Resource Center for 25 years, worked to expand and improve travel options for Puget Sound region commuters.

It was moved by Commissioner Maher, and seconded by Commissioner O’Neal to approve Resolution No. 664 honoring John Shadoff for his many years of public service with the Department of Transportation, and his contributions to expand and improve travel options for Puget Sound commuters. The motion passed unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATE: SR 520, BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, AND HOV PROJECT

Dave Dye, Urban Corridors Administrator, provided an update on the SR 520 project. The Legislature provided funds to further analyze an 8-lane alternative, its impacts and potential improvements on I-5. The analysis has been completed and presented to the Executive Committee in April 2004. A tolling analysis has been completed to examine the revenue potential and traffic impacts of tolling a replacement SR 520 Bridge across Lake Washington. Alternative analyses have been performed on both projects. The Department is currently evaluating Accelerated Construction Technology Transfer workshop (ACTT) recommendations.

Maureen Sullivan, Project Director, Urban Corridors Office, explained that the SR 520 floating bridge is vulnerable to wind and earthquake damage because of its age. Alternatives considered are to replace the bridge, adding lanes and HOV lanes, and bicycle/ pedestrian lanes. The project is currently on schedule to deliver the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in the Spring of 2005. Ms. Sullivan explained issues surrounding tolling.

SEATTLE MONORAIL PROJECT - SIGNING OF RESOLUTION 665

It was moved by Commissioner Barnes, and seconded by Commissioner O'Neal to approve Resolution No. 665 expressing the Commission's concern about the impact of the alignment of the Seattle Monorail Project Green Line on the Seattle rail corridor in the form of impairment of rail passenger ingress and egress at King Street Station, and the possible foreclosure of Burlington Northern-Santa Fe track expansion. The Commission resolved that it would not support any effort by or on behalf of the Seattle Monorail Project to access state transportation revenues for the support of the project. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2004-05 COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Davis stated that the nominating committee would consist of himself and Commissioner Forner. The decision will be presented to the Commission at the June 16 & 17, 2004 meeting.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary MacDonald commented briefly regarding the Department's position on the reauthorization bill in Congress. He recognized Donna Stallings, Executive Assistant to Paula Hammond, for her 30-years of service with the Department of Transportation. He recognized John Conrad, Assistant Secretary, Engineering and Regional Operations Division, for his 25-years of service with the Department of Transportation.

He commented on the Motorist Information Sign Program and the Global Warming Initiative.

BRIEFING ON WEST COAST GOVERNOR'S GLOBAL WARMING INITIATIVE

Megan White, Director, Environmental Services Office, introduced Carol Lee Roalkvam, Compliance Branch manager, Environmental Services Office.

Ms. Roalkvam provided a briefing to the Commission regarding the Governor's West Coast Global Warming Initiative. In September 2003, the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and California committed to a regional greenhouse gas reduction initiative. The Governors concluded that global warming will have serious adverse consequences on the economy, health, and environment of the west coast states, and that the states should act to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the policy recommendations five papers have been released; hybrid vehicle procurement, ports and highway diesel emissions, renewable energy, energy efficiency and measuring greenhouse gas emissions. A sixth paper in development pertains to hydrogen and the hydrogen highway concept. The overview included a review of policy recommendations on reduction strategies, the relationship to transportation issues, and its views and policies with regards to the initiative. The ferry system is also embarking on a clean-fuel initiative and shifting to low sulfur diesel fuel.

GRAY NOTEBOOK QUARTERLY REPORT

Daniela Bremmer, Director, Strategic Assessment, presented the Gray Notebook for the quarter ending March 31, 2004

John Sibold, Director, WSDOT Aviation, shared efficiencies and performance highlights for the Aviation Division. Some of the highlights include online registrations, the email alert system, and a third round of distribution of airport grants.

Bill Green, Manager, Capital Program, WSF, provided a briefing regarding food service complaints, trip reliability, capital performance and construction expenditures. He provided an update outlining the condition of the ferry fleet by class of vessel. Repeating the pattern for the fiscal year 2003, through the third quarter of fiscal year 2004 ridership and revenues have shown a slightly higher increase than anticipated.

Megan White, Director, Environmental Services Office, briefed the Commission regarding the improvement to environmental review and tracking processes. The Department has examined the amount of time it has taken to process Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). She explained some of the causes of delay time in processing EISs. In 2003 an EIS database was developed to track the process. The database will aid the Department in meeting reporting time frames to the Federal Highway Administration. Other environmental documents have been reformatted to improve readability. Guided by the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC) the Department has streamlined the environmental permitting process as well.

Ron Niemi, Manager, Facilities Planning & Operations Manager, and Penny Haeger, Safety Rest Area Program Planner, provided an annual update regarding Safety Rest Areas. Safety Rest Areas provide off-road areas for travelers to rest. The Department maintains a count of rest area traffic in order to determine use of the facilities. Rest areas are assessed annually and semi-annually through an inspection process to judge condition in order to plan for preservation and improvement.

Chris Christopher, State Maintenance Engineer, provided an update regarding costs of snow and ice removal for the winter season of 2003-04. He briefly outlined current methods that reduce the cost of snow and ice removal, as well as increase worker safety.

Toby Rickman, State Traffic Engineer, provided a quarterly update on traveler information. He explained how the Department's 511 Travel Information Service system works. The 511 audience has increased as the public becomes more aware that it's available via telephone and the Department's website.

Greg Selstead, Director, Project Control and Reporting, provided an update regarding advertised projects for the biennium to date. He outlined pre-existing fund and Nickel fund projects.

Amy Arnis, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Programming, provided an overview regarding the 2003 Transportation (Nickel) Account revenue forecast and the Multimodal Account revenue forecast.

She outlined the bond sales plan for new authorizations and the financial plans for accounts supporting the 2003-funding package.

Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, and John Conrad, Assistant Director, Engineering and Regional Operations Division, briefed the Commission on the Gray Notebooks (Beige pages) project reporting on the 2003 Transportation Funding package.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF SPENDING ALLOCATION

Greg Selstead, Director, Project Control and Reporting Office, requested that the Commission approve the advancement of \$800,000 in the spending plan for early purchase of a right of way parcel that is essential to the completion of I 5/I 205, NE 134th Street Interchange project. The purchase of this property would avoid any developments that may delay the project.

It was moved by Commissioner Maher, and seconded by Commissioner O'Neal to approve the transfer of spending allocation of \$800,000 to the I-5/I-205, NE 134th Street Interchange project. The motion passed unanimously.

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOP

Charlie Howard, Director, Strategic Planning and Programming, provided an overview of the work plan. He explained the overall process of the workshops, sharing that Department staff are creating a transportation data library, analyzing statewide trends and system conditions, identifying key strategic issues and development of effective strategies, and sharing the information. Today's presentation focuses on safety and moving freight. Roadway safety is a major issue for highway system users. He explained that since the late seventies and early eighties the fatality rate has declined, but is still at an unacceptable level. Although fatality rates have declined, collisions have not. Transportation system security issues have moved to the forefront of public concern and merits enlarged attention of safety planning.

Toby Rickman, State Traffic Engineer, provided data regarding traffic collisions. He outlined specific highway safety issues.

Steve, Lind, Acting Director, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, explained the target zero approach. He shared that traffic data collection coincides with implemented safety legislation in order to monitor results.

Barbara Ivanov, Director, Freight Strategy and Policy, explained that Washington's transportation system moves huge volumes of freight on trade corridors that cross the State. Transportation systems are critical to the freight needs of Washington's producers of agriculture, manufacturing, resource industries and construction in marketing their goods. Transportation systems are used by freight to move the necessities of life to the largest cities and smallest towns. Freight mobility is key to jobs, economic vitality and quality of life in our communities. Freight strategies, like all other aspects of the state's transportation plan, must be related to efficient choices among transportation modes.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m., on May 20, 2004.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DALE STEDMAN, Chair

DANIEL O'NEAL, Vice-Chair

EDWARD BARNES, Member

AUBREY DAVIS, Member

ELMIRA FORNER, Member

RUTH FISHER, Member

A. MICHÈLE MAHER, Member

DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

JENNIFER ZIEGLER, Administrator

DATE OF APPROVAL